

Kansas City, Mo, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1888

Dear Miss Kate,

I was very much pleased to find your letter forwarded to me at Purcell. I attended at once to your request to the Odanah matter. I bought at Lawrence Kans. Horses, farming implements, etc. and shipped all in one car direct to Pawhuska which is the cheapest and no delay. I saw Miss Allen. She is well and doing good, but desired a transfer to another Indian school. I consoled her with the promise that I would consult you first and then get her transferred, which I will do, if you wish it; but we have to make a prudent choice. I held a conference with the Prefect Apostolic, Very Rev. Ignace O.S.B., and Very rev. Thomas O.S.B. and demanded emphatically the removal of Rev. Felix O.S.B. from Pawhuska and to place an energetic priest there. After a stubborn resistance, they agreed to make the change. The Sisters do very well and are highly respected and beloved. Their school at St. Louise & St. John's are not only crowded but packed full. At Purcell, where Very Rev. Ignace resides, only vegetation. The Sisters do all what is in their power to make it a success, but the Benedictines in the Ind. Ter. are a lazy & shiftless set.

When I return to Washington I shall make St. Elizabeth a success to. I laid my plans for it and it must be done. The full particulars I shall state verbally. Your judgement about Wash. & the Bureau is correct and I see no other way out, than I must remain in harness at Washington this winter and pull matters through; although my health needs other purer air than I get in Washington, yet I shall sacrifice all, as a Christmas gift to our heavenly mother, to do God's holy will.

Matters at St. Joseph's are a Knawing worm on my mind but I trust in the Lord that Christmas will bring a change for the better. I am really too tired to write much. I shall go to Chicago and buy for the Sisters at St. Louise, St. John & St. Elizabeth what they actually need and rest a few days and then go to my prison (Washington) again and serve out my term of strict penance until the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. May be I am sentenced there for another term; I shall hurry up to reach Washington between Christmas & New Year's.

May the Star of Bethlehem guide and lead You, Your good Sisters and the new member of your family, Mr. Morrell, to a happy—yes! Many happy Christmas's and may the Infant Jesus give you the Christmas gift of perseverance in the service of God with all his blessings. This is the sincere prayer of

Yours in the Sacred Heart,

J.A. Stephan

Remember me to Miss Cassidy and Mrs. Jinks

(direct: N<sup>o</sup> 4 Lasalle St.)